

AMENDMENT TO THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

This replacement abstract will replace all prior versions of the abstract in the application:

Abstract:

A terminal for marking a paper ballot which lists a plurality of candidates and which includes a marking space for each candidate which can be either hand-marked by a voter, or machine-marked by the terminal. The terminal scans the ballot to determine the ballot format, and then presents candidate selection options to the voter visually utilizing ~~by means of~~ an LCD touch screen ~~menu~~ and aurally utilizing ~~by means of~~ a synthesized speech menu. Candidate selections entered utilizing ~~by means of~~ the touch screen menu or utilizing ~~by means of~~ the audio menu are marked on the front and back sides of the ballot in marking spaces corresponding to the selected candidates, and the ballot is returned to the voter in a form which enables the voter to visually confirm that his or her selections have been marked. The ballot, whether hand-marked or machine-marked, is inserted in a ballot scanning device, wherein the ballot is tallied and deposited in a ballot box.